

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) A protective wire net comprising:

an array of elongate and longitudinally-extending wireselements comprising wires and metal cables arranged in side-by-side relation with one another, adjacent pairs of said wireselements being intertwined with one another at intertwining regions defined by portions of the respective said wireselements which are twisted around one another, ~~and~~ ~~— a longitudinally-extending metal cable having a portion around which one of said wires disposed adjacent said metal cable is twisted,~~ each said intertwining region consisting essentially of a pair of said elements intertwined with one another, said pair of said elements consisting essentially of either two of said wires or one of said wires and one of said metal cables, each said metal cable being interposed between two adjacent ones of said wires in said array and being intertwined with one of said two adjacent ones of said wires on one side of said metal cable and intertwined with the other of said two adjacent ones of said wires on the other side of said metal cable.

37. (Currently amended) The protective wire net of Claim 36, ~~further comprising a plurality of said longitudinally-extending~~ wherein said metal cables are arranged at regular

intervals with one another across said array and in an alternating manner with one or more of said wires.

38. (Currently amended) The protective wire net of Claim 36, further comprising an additional elongate and longitudinally-extending metal cable having a portion around which one of said wires disposed adjacent said additional metal cable is twisted, said additional metal cable defining a terminal longitudinally-extending edge of said protective wire net.

39. (Currently amended) The protective wire net of Claim 36, wherein said portions of the respective said ~~wire~~elements which define said intertwining regions are doubly-twisted around one another, said array and said intertwining regions being disposed to define hexagonal shapes throughout said array such that said protective wire net comprises a double-twist net with hexagonal meshes.

40. (Currently amended) The protective wire net of Claim 36, wherein ~~said metal cable is interposed between said one wire and another of said wires disposed immediately adjacent said one wire,~~ each said metal cable ~~having~~has a plurality of said portions around which said one ~~wire~~of said two adjacent ones of said wires is twisted and said portions are first portions of said metal cable, each said metal cable having a plurality of second portions around which said ~~another wire~~other of said two adjacent ones of said wires is twisted, said first and second portions of said metal cable alternating with one another as said metal cable extends longitudinally along said array.

41. (Currently amended) The protective wire net of Claim 36, wherein ~~said metal cable is a first metal cable and said~~

protective wire net further comprises ~~a second~~ an additional metal cable or wire extending in a direction transverse to said longitudinally-extending ~~wire~~ elements and ~~being~~ having a portion disposed longitudinally between two longitudinally-adjacent intertwining regions ~~of each adjacent pair of said wires.~~

42-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently amended) A protective wire net comprising:

an array of longitudinally-extending wires arranged in side-by-side relation with one another, adjacent pairs of said wires being intertwined with one another at intertwining regions defined by portions of the respective said wires which are twisted around one another; and

a metal cable or wire extending in a direction transverse to said array of longitudinally-extending wires and being disposed ~~longitudinally between two longitudinally-adjacent and longitudinally spaced-apart~~ intertwining regions of each adjacent pair of said wires, said metal cable or wire being so as to be intertwined with non-twisted portions of said wires extending longitudinally between said two longitudinally-adjacent and longitudinally spaced-apart intertwining regions as said metal cable or wire extends transversely across said array.

47. (Previously presented) The protective wire net of Claim 46, wherein said metal cable or wire is a first metal cable and said protective wire net further comprises a longitudinally-extending second metal cable having a portion around which one of said wires disposed adjacent said second metal cable is twisted, said first metal cable being a bent portion of said second metal cable.

48. (Previously presented) The protective wire net of Claim 46, wherein said metal cable or wire has terminal ends and a ring-shaped anchor is disposed on each said terminal end of said metal cable or wire, one of said wires extending through each said anchor.

49. (Previously presented) The protective wire net of Claim 46, further comprising means for fixing said protective wire net to a slope.

50. (New) The protective wire net of Claim 46, wherein said metal cable or wire is a first metal cable and said protective wire net further comprises a longitudinally-extending second reinforcing metal cable disposed between two adjacent ones of said wires in said array, said second reinforcing metal cable being intertwined with one of said two wires on one side of said second reinforcing metal cable and intertwined with the other of said two wires on the other side of said second reinforcing metal cable.